

Meeting with governor helps build future

Story and photo by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Civil Affairs team members met with the governor of Kapisa Province, Aug. 12, to discuss various topics concerning progress within his area. The future projects are designed to help the local population grow as a society and provide them with the means they need to rebuild their part of Afghanistan.

CA's main objective was to obtain the location that Kapisa Governor Haqbeen had decided on for a well. The well was a nominated project that may or may not be chosen for completion. It is also an expensive project, so until the decision is made, another option was mandatory to have in the making.

The next best solution to counter the water shortage problem is water storage tanks, said Maj. Carman Oldre, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion.



Personnel from the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion meet with local nationals to discuss the location for water storage tanks. The province will be provided with ten water storage tanks that hold 1,200 gallons of water each.

During the meeting, the governor was asked by CA personnel to choose ten locations for his province's water storage tanks. The tanks are designed to hold more than

1,200 gallons of water each and will provide the people of Kapisa province the resource

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DoD to examine options before requesting troops

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – If needed, the Department of Defense will ask Congress to authorize more soldiers. But first officials at the department would like to see if there are other ways to handle deployments and not raise the troop ceiling, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference.

If after careful consideration, Rumsfeld decides that the military needs more service members, he will recommend that to President Bush. But first, there are a number of other methods to extend the span of U.S. forces.

American service members are participating in operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Sinai and Bosnia. In addition, there are U.S. troops based in Japan, Korea and Europe.

Rumsfeld said the department is addressing the problem. Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said the military is not stretched too far now, and it can handle its missions.

Rumsfeld listed a number of options: He said the military can put in place a more efficient deployment and redeployment process. The services also should examine – as the Navy is – using technology to cut down manning necessary for ships and other weapons systems. He said the services must look at “rebalancing the reserve component with

the active force component so that we don't have to have the kinds of call-ups that we do now.”

The United States might examine using more service members from allies in some operations and, in the case of Iraq, manning the army, civil defense forces and the police with Iraqis.

The United States also needs to keep close watch on deployments and continue the drawdown in Bosnia and Kosovo and the Sinai.

Another option is to take the 300,000 to 380,000 U.S. military members who are in jobs better done by civilians and return them to military roles. “We need to get the personnel

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Blackout is 'wake-up' call

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — President Bush said Friday the massive blackout that struck the Northeast and upper Midwest — as well as parts of Canada — is a “wake-up call” to modernize the electricity system.

The blackout also provided an opening for some sparring between the administration and Democrats over energy policy with the two sides trading shots over which party was more interested in developing a comprehensive plan.

Bush, taking questions from reporters while visiting the Santa Monica Mountains north of Los Angeles, described the delivery system as “old and antiquated”

“This is an indication that we need to modernize the electricity grid,” said Bush, who repeated his call for lawmakers to pass a broad energy bill.

In a written statement, Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri — one of nine Democrats seeking his party’s presidential nomination — said the blackout showed the Bush administration is “inexorably tied to Persian Gulf oil and old energy.”



Hanan Ali fans her daughter with temperatures at 113 degrees in Iraq on Friday.

Iraqis offer power outage tips

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqis who have suffered for months with little electricity gloated Friday over a blackout in the northeastern United States and southern Canada and offered some tips to help Americans beat the heat.

From frequent showers to rooftop slumber parties, Iraqis have developed advanced techniques to adapt to life without electricity.

Daily highs have soared above 120 de-

grees Fahrenheit recently as Iraq’s U.S. administrators have been unable to get power back to prewar levels. Some said it was poetic justice that some Americans should suffer the same fate, if only briefly.

“Let them taste what we have tasted,” said Ali Abdul Hussein, selling “Keep Cold” brand ice chests on a sidewalk. “Let them sit outside drinking tea and smoking cigarettes waiting for the power to come back, just like the Iraqis.”

Libya takes Lockerbie blame

WASHINGTON — Libya has delivered a long-awaited letter to the United Nations, accepting responsibility for the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people, the White House said.

Libya’s letter to the U.N. Security Council stated that it “accepts responsibility for the actions of its officials” in the bombing, according to a statement Friday from White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

On delivery of the letter, a Libyan bank was to transfer \$2.7 billion, or \$10 million for each victim’s family, into an escrow account as compensation for the bombing.

The delivery of the letter and the transfer of the compensation will prompt the United Nations to lift U.N. sanctions, which have been suspended since 1999, when Libya handed over two suspects in the bombing.

But a State Department official said Libya’s expected action only “meets the minimum requirements” for satisfying U.N. Security Council resolutions, and would not trigger a lifting of separate sanctions the United States has in place against Libya.

“Libya does not deserve a clean bill of health,” the official said, adding the United States “will retain a whole range of economic restrictions” against Tripoli which will only be removed when “concrete action is taken.”

McClellan said the United States would not oppose the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

“In recognition of these steps and to allow the families’ settlement to go forward, the United States has notified the U.N. Security Council that it will not oppose the lifting of U.N. sanctions on Libya which were

suspended in 1999,” the White House statement said.



Beachgoers continue to have fun in the surf as Tropical Storm Erika makes her way to the South Texas coast.

Erika predicted to hit Texas

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — One month after Hurricane Claudette pounded Texas, hurricane warnings were posted Friday along parts of the coast as fast-moving Tropical Storm Erika churned across the gulf.

The race westward by Erika, which reached tropical storm strength only Thursday, caught Gulf Coast residents by surprise, sending farmers, fishermen and some residents scrambling Friday.

Forecasters with the National Weather Service said that at 8 p.m. EDT, Erika was about 185 miles east of Brownsville and moving west near 20 mph, with sustained winds near 60 mph.

Weather service forecaster Jim Campbell said the storm was expected to make landfall in the early morning hours Saturday near the mouth of the Rio Grande, just east of Brownsville.

“It’s making the beeline just straight at us,” Campbell said.

The storm was expected to come ashore as a hurricane, with 75 mph wind, the minimal strength for hurricanes. Heavy rain, a storm surge of 3 to 6 feet and large battering waves were expected, forecasters said. There was also the possibility of tornadoes.

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needed for survival through the hot summer heat and through the frozen winter months.

“(The tanks) are very important and especially with winter coming,” said Oldre.

“Some of these villages are so dry that they will need this water to survive through the winter.”

Oldre knows the importance of the water to the community and also knows that the water storage tanks will come much faster than the well.

“It’s a temporary solution and I know the water will be beneficial for them here,” she said.

The governors’ concerns were addressed including worries that the amount of water provided would be insufficient and frozen in the winter.

Oldre assured him that they could refill the tanks often and that the water was contained and would not freeze.

“(This) is one of his main priorities and therefore one of our main priorities,” said Oldre. “We’re here to work for the governor (and) whatever he sees as important, we also see as important.”

Oldre reassured the governor that the CA team would work hard for his people.

“Whether you see us or not, you are always on our minds,” she said to the governor. “We try our best for you.”

The two also talked about a possible mission for a medical team to go throughout the province to deliver vaccinations to livestock and the local population. The trip would last two or three days and medical personnel would see up to 300 animals a day, said Oldre.

“They can help the shepherds and farmers with these animals,” she said. “They have so much energy to help the animals.”

At the same time and location, medical personnel would also offer inoculations to young children and pregnant mothers, Oldre added.

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system passed by the Congress so that we have the ability to manage our civil service system, and not have to constantly put military people into positions that don’t require military people,” he said. “That is a pile of people. They need to be doing military functions.”

Rumsfeld said officials should re-examine war plans in light of the new information gleaned from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The new methods, technologies and capabilities need to be used to their utmost, he said.

Rumsfeld said that before he tells the president the department needs more people,

he would like to try all these options.

Myers made another point. He told reporters that personnel accounts — including medical and other quality of life options — are expensive.

“It’s a very expensive solution,” he said. “And it’s not a solution that comes on line right away. You can authorize it, even provide the money for it, but it takes you time to recruit, train and so forth. So it’s not an immediate solution to any of the issues that people want to raise right now.

“If you’re going to do it, you’re going to have to live with it probably for a long time, and you better think that through carefully, since that’s a significant part of your budget.”

Oldre asked the governor to recommend the area within his province that depended most on the livelihood of its livestock and reminded him that they would travel anywhere they were needed.

Another reason for the meeting was to find out any new information about the Provincial Reconstruction Team building that may be located in Kapisa Province.

“There is a location in his province that we are interested in renting, leasing or buying,” said Oldre. If the site is chosen, the team will move permanently into the area.

“We needed to coordinate a time and location to go there, get our estimates and do the write up,” said Oldre.

The CA team had another project in the works as well. The governor needed a badge to get onto base to attend meetings and talk with personnel. It is a lengthy process that includes an interview, blood test and paperwork.

“As the governor, you don’t want to have him wait, so we brought the forms for him to fill out,” said Oldre. “We will be taking (the forms) back and setting him up an appointment so all he has to do is come out, get his picture taken and get his blood drawn.”

The governor also planned a surprise for the team in anticipation of their arrival. CA personnel had presented the governor with a television/VCR combo, but after the set was harmed during an energy converting issue, they thought all was lost. The TV was running strong when the group arrived, playing a tape made of a the independence day parade.

“It was a compliment,” said Oldre. “He took the time to make it work and now instead of being a failure, it has turned out to be a successful project.”

Eventually, Oldre hopes to drop off tapes of projects they are doing and any other information he may need, she said.

“A lot of things we’re covered (during the meeting),” said Oldre. “Everything is a stepping stone. Every time we go out there, the cooperation and togetherness that we feel working together to make Afghanistan, gets (stronger).”

Rumsfeld said such a step should be taken carefully. “We have a big department,” he said. “We’re absolutely open-minded about how many people we have in the services. We want to have the right number. And the way to get to the right number is not the first time you feel the effects of a spike in activity — as we do right now with Iraq — immediately decide, ‘Well, the solution’s to that to increase end strength.’

“Now we get about the task of really running this place right and seeing that we’re respectful of the taxpayers’ dollars and see that we make the most effective use of the force. And that’s what we’re in the process of doing.”

Afghanistan Hot Topics

(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)



2 Afghan aid workers, 3 others die in ambush

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Chicago Tribune*) — Afghanistan was reeling Thursday from one of its bloodiest days since the fall of the Taliban as a local aid agency said two of its staff had been killed and three wounded in an ambush south of the capital.

The latest deaths Wednesday, when a vehicle belonging to the Afghan Red Crescent Society was ambushed by guerrillas on motorcycles in southeastern Ghazni province, raised to 64 the number of people killed in the space of 24 hours starting late Tuesday.

Battles in central Afghanistan left 24 dead, and 21 fighters died in fighting between government forces and suspected Taliban near the border with Pakistan. Fifteen people died in a bus explosion in southern Helmand province, and two students were killed while trying to make a bomb in Kabul.

Qarabig Izdyar, chief of the Afghan Red Crescent in Kabul, said the assailants fled after the attack. The wounded were taken to a hospital in Ghazni and were reported in stable condition, Izdyar said Thursday.

The Red Crescent workers were returning to Kabul from Paktika province, where they had delivered humanitarian aid including rice and blankets for flood victims.

Anti-government insurgents are waging a hit-and-run war in much of southern and eastern Afghanistan. They are a mix of Taliban militants, Al Qaeda fighters and supporters of renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali called the bus explosion a terrorist attack, adding that 18 people were also wounded in the blast in Helmand province.

"Before they were just targeting the military, now they are targeting civilians — innocent people," he said.

Afghan Taliban denies deadly bus attack

SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan (*New York Times*) — Afghanistan's former Taliban on Friday

denied involvement in a bomb blast this week that killed at least 15 people on a passenger bus in the southern province of Helmand.

The attack on Wednesday, in which six children and a woman were among the dead, came on one of the bloodiest days since the hardline regime was ousted from power late in 2001, raising fears of a resurgence of the Islamic militia.

More than 60 people died in the 24 hours from late Tuesday, 25 of them in a factional clash and 21 in fighting between Afghan forces and suspected Taliban and al Qaeda rebels near the border with Pakistan.

"The Taliban are busy ousting infidels from Afghanistan and the Taliban are carrying out activities against their agents," Mullah Abdul Rauf, a Taliban official, told Reuters by satellite telephone from an undisclosed location.

"The Taliban are not linked to the deaths of innocent people and the Taliban feel sorry for those deaths," he said, referring to the Helmand bus attack which local officials have blamed on the ousted militia.

Rauf blamed the attack on rival Afghan commanders settling old scores.

The United States is leading a 12,500-strong coalition in Afghanistan to hunt remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda network, including its leader, Osama bin Laden.

Rauf accused non-governmental organizations working in Afghanistan of acting as spies for the United States, adding that attacks on them would therefore be justified.

The Taliban have been blamed for attacks on NGOs, anti-Taliban clerics, Afghan and foreign forces and civilians in recent months.

US backs major Afghan govt. reshuffle

Washington (*Sify.com*) — The United States on Thursday gave its full support to Afghan President Hamid Karzai's major government reshuffle, saying the changes came under the "legitimate authority" of his administration.

"The United States remains deeply com-

mitted to working with President Karzai as he rebuilds the institutions of government and seeks to bring the benefits of peace and stability to every region of Afghanistan," the State Department said.

"The United States endorses President Karzai's reforms designed to assert the legitimate authority of the central government and to improve provincial governance," said Tom Casey, a department spokesman.

"We share President Karzai's view that improving security and governance in the provinces is essential to achieving our common goals of creating a moderate and stable Afghanistan," he said in a statement.

Karzai this week stripped powerful warlord Ismail Khan of his post as military commander of western Afghanistan and replaced others in a major reshuffle of provincial governors and officials.

The reshuffle is part of his effort to extend the authority of the central government to the provinces and rein in powerful governors and warlords.

Human rights organizations have accused Khan's troops of major human rights abuses in western Afghanistan.

Karzai had threatened in May to step down if the governors of Afghanistan's border provinces failed to hand over customs duties estimated to be worth millions of dollars to the cash-strapped central government.

He also threatened to sack recalcitrant governors.

On Monday, Secretary of State Colin Powell pledged to hurry new, large-scale aid to Afghanistan ahead of next year's election which US officials have said is needed to provide essential services to Afghan people and prove that the international community will stick to its promises to support Karzai's government.

There have been concerns that radical Islam could enjoy a resurgence in Afghanistan, if Karzai's standing is damaged in the eyes of Afghans.

FREEDOM'S VOICES

'Stolen valor' dishonors our heroes

Commentary by Lt. Col. Stan Heath
U.S. Army Personnel Command PAO

Medals for valor are paid for with sweat, blood, and in too many cases with the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Surviving families don't ask for a crisply folded flag or a posthumous award for their loved ones' bravery. They would much rather have their soldier safely home and out of harm's way.

We recently learned that all citizens don't understand the true meaning of integrity regarding medals for valor.

The U.S. Army Personnel Command awards branch recently assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation in bringing to closure an allegation that a Rhode Island man had fabricated documents to upgrade his Bronze Star to the Distinguished Service Cross.

Unbeknownst to the Army, a congressman presented a fake certificate and store-bought DSC to him in 2000.

The veteran's secret went undiscovered for three years.

The Vietnam veteran recently admitted that he fraudulently created a letter from the Army to a congressman advis-

ing him that the Army had awarded him the DSC, the military's second-highest honor.

"Actions of stolen valor dishonor all warriors whose valorous deeds have earned them every citizen's respect, appreciation and love for protecting our way of life," said retired Col. Roger Donlon.

Donlon, the first Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, was a captain in 1964. He commanded Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a Viet Cong battalion attacked the camp. Donlon was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

"Medals of valor are never won, they are earned in actions against a hostile enemy and these actions go above and beyond the call of duty. Every recipient of such an award accepts these sacred honors with the highest sense of responsibility. They dedicate themselves to upholding the dignity of each award for all who have served honorably and continue to serve."

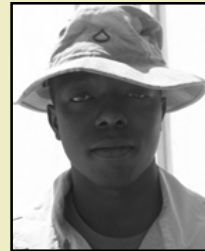
Freedom isn't free and valor awards are not meant to be bought and sold on the Internet or engraved in trophy shops.

"Medals of valor are never won."

- Col. Roger Donlon (Ret.)

STREET TALK

What is the most important life lesson you've learned since joining the army?



"Pride, for the uniform I wear and the country I live in "

Pfc. Brandon Little
CJTF-180

"Don't take things for granted."

LCpl. Adam Ard
VMA-513



"I've learned not to take the freedoms of America lightly."

Spc. Melissa Dannehy
407th Civil Affairs Co.

"That there's no greater honor than being an American soldier."

Maj. Kathy Brill
TF Dragon Base Ops.



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(Left) Soldiers move through the small village during the operation. (Top) A soldier stands watch.

82nd Abn. Div. flourish in Op. Devil Fury



Photo page by
Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The Blue Devils of 82nd Airborne Division took on the last mission of their nearly eight month deployment in Afghanistan, when they began Operation Devil Fury Aug. 9. The four-day long Operation took place near the southern village of Megal.

Company C and a detachment from Co. D, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment's mission was to find and deny haven to any al-Qaeda or Taliban enemy forces operating in the area.

Around noon on Aug. 9, the infantry soldiers Air Assaulted into Paktika Province, in southern Afghanistan.



During the operation the infantry soldiers conducted "hard breaches" of homes in the village.



A soldier stares through the sight of an anti-aircraft weapon confiscated at one of the village compounds.

Gym raises the bar with new equipment

Story and photo by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The Morale, Welfare and Recreation gym now has more options to choose from for personnel on Bagram Air Base when it comes to physical development.

The newest cardio and fixed weight machines in the gym are the result of about seven months of planning by MWR and Kellogg Brown and Root with the help of the Department of Defense, said Jimmy Ferrazas, MWR coordinator over Brown and Root at Bagram.

Ferrazas said that before this plan was implemented, “all we had was five pieces of cardio equipment in the gym, and they were just exercise bikes,” he said. “We had no sort of (fixed weight) machines,” and the previous gym was a tent barely big enough to hold those bikes, said Ferrazas.

“There’s no way we could have catered to the majority of Bagram that goes to the gym now, because we didn’t have the facility or equipment,” said Ferrazas.

So, for the last two months, the gym has grown by leaps and bounds – about \$200,000 dollars worth of leaps and bounds, said Ferrazas.

The expansion includes several types of cardio equipment including treadmills, stair climbers, exercise bikes and cross-trainers, said Ferrazas. The facility also now allows personnel the choice of free and fixed weights. “We knew we wouldn’t have ample space to get all the equipment we wanted, so we tried to hit each individual muscle group, so we would at least be able to cater to that different aspect without free weights,” said Ferrazas. “We got them for chest, hams, quads, calves, shoulders, and backs.”

“In the near future, everything in there will be brand new equipment,” including new



Spc. Eric Sellers looks on as 1st Lt. Henry Moltz, both with Co. B, 3-504th PIR, takes advantage of one of the newest equipment at the MWR gym.

benches and squat-racks, said Ferrazas. “We already have the new bars and the new plate weights.”

Ferrazas said that the plan was implemented because “everybody works out,” and MWR saw the need to bring in more equipment for the soldiers, he said.

“It’s really nice to have a place to kill time” in a beneficial way, said Spc. Eric Sellers, Co. B, 3-504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, who is glad to have access to the new equipment because “there are really no more

lines to use the equipment.”

“Obviously, every time you go into (the gym), it’s crowded,” said Ferrazas. He said that the gym offers more than a place to work out. It offers “escape,” he said.

“I go in there and I can just forget about everything.”

He said that like a lot of soldiers, “I just get on a treadmill, and take off running,” he said. “You’re just in there working out, taking out frustrations, or just relaxing,” and that’s how it should be,” he said.

Music Notes (Compiled from MTV.com)



50 Cent, Snoop Dogg join forces for rap supergroup

MTV – A few weeks ago, Snoop said he'd recently told 50 Cent they should do an album together, and now it looks like the "P.I.M.P." video co-stars might make the idea a reality.

Under the supergroup moniker of "DPG-Unit," the Dogg Pound and G-Unit have recorded almost an entire LP worth of material together while on the Rock the Mic Tour.

"We're gonna take over the whole world," Snoop's cousin Daz said of the joint venture.



Snoop Dogg and 50 Cent

for the G-Unit album."

The six MCs recorded nine other songs in a three-day period while on tour, but they don't have definite plans yet as to where the remaining tracks will pop up. The supergroup doesn't even have a record label to put an album out, but members have been toying with the possibility of using 50's G-Unit Records as a recording home.

Justin and Christina reschedule postponed shows

MTV – After a couple of days of uncertainty, the Justified and Stripped Tour featuring Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera is ready to resume.

Dates were put on hold after a lighting grid collapsed Saturday before an Atlantic City, New Jersey, concert, requiring extensive repairs to the pop stars' stage set.

Postponed shows in Albany, New York; East Rutherford, New Jersey; and Hartford, Connecticut, are going to be made up next week with a new lineup of dates that starts Monday. Though the tour was originally ex-

pected to pick up again this weekend with a two-night stand at Uniondale, New York's Nassau Coliseum, those shows were pushed back to Monday and Tuesday.



Christina Aguilera

get a new date is Atlantic City's, though efforts are still being made to salvage that stop.

Bobby Brown wanted again

MTV – Citing a failure to complete any of the conditions of his probation from a drunk-driving conviction, a judge in Georgia's DeKalb County has issued a misdemeanor arrest warrant for troubled singer Bobby Brown.

Brown, who potentially faces jail time for the alleged violations, has not been heard from or seen by deputies since the warrant was issued nearly a month ago, according to a DeKalb County sheriff's office spokesperson.

The R&B singer has failed to complete the conditions of his probation from the April 1996 arrest, which included participation in a risk-reduction program, completion of 240 hours of community service, six months of twice-weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and an order to submit to random alcohol and drug screenings, the spokesperson said. Deputies have been unable to locate Brown since the warrant was issued on July 17, despite looking for him at his Atlanta-area home and several other locations in the area.

Though it is up to

the judge to decide, it is possible that such violations could result in jail time.

A spokesperson for Brown could not be reached by press time.

'Scary Movie 3' replaces cast, not humor

MTV – When the Wayans brothers decided to take their sequel ideas somewhere else, they left Miramax without much other than the name "Scary Movie 3."

Enter spoof movie master David Zucker ("Airplane!") and a laundry list of celebrities including Ja Rule, Queen Latifah, Fat Joe, Pamela Anderson and Master P, and voilà, the series continued, generating a bigger buzz than "Scary Movie 2" ever had.

"This is gonna be the best 'Scary Movie' ever because I'm in it!" Master P proclaimed recently.

The new "Scary Movie" cast also includes Charlie Sheen, who starred in the similarly minded "Loaded Weapon 1" and "Hot Shots!" movies, Anthony Anderson ("Kangaroo Jack"), George Carlin ("Dogma"), Eddie Griffin ("Undercover Brother"), Jenny McCarthy ("Scream 3"), Macy Gray, Simon Cowell and Anna Faris, who reprises her Cindy Campbell role from the first two.

The original "Scary Movie" made over \$157 million in 2000, and although the following year's sequel wasn't nearly as well received, it still managed to take in an impressive \$71.2 million.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

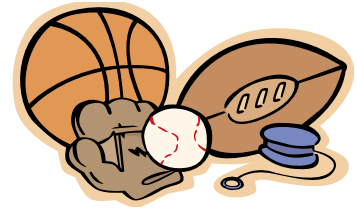
1530Z at the MWR building:
"Unforgiven." Retired Old West gunslinger William Munny reluctantly takes on one last job, with the help of his old partner and a young man.

1530Z tomorrow: "Lonesome Dove."



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Rich Harden hasn't allowed more than two runs in any of his first five starts for the Athletics.

With Harden - A's rotation now the Fab Four

ESPN — The Oakland A's knew Rich Harden would be good, and they knew he would be good soon.

When you've scouted, drafted and developed young pitchers like Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and Tim Hudson, you develop an eye for these things.

What they didn't know, of course, and what would have been impossible to project, is that he would be this good, this soon.

In the last month, Harden has burst onto the scene like a pitching supernova, going 3-1 in his first five starts with a 1.69 ERA. His one loss was a 5-1 setback to the White Sox's Esteban Loaiza, the clear frontrunner for the American League Cy Young Award, in which Harden allowed two earned runs in six innings; his no-decision (one earned run allowed in seven innings) in his first major league start could easily have been another victory.

"Going into the year," says Oakland general manager Billy Beane, "when we signed John Halama, we wanted a bridge. We thought Rich was going to be ready at some time during the year, and we wanted Halama to get us to that point. We knew (Harden) would get here."

Beane never anticipated, however, that he would make the impact that he has. Where once the A's could boast of a Big Three (Mulder, Zito and Hudson), Harden, just 21, has transformed the Oakland rotation into the Fab Four.

"It used to be bad enough," sighs another AL general manager, "to go into a series, thinking about beating one of those guys (Mulder,

Zito and Hudson). That's pretty tough. But now, when you think about playing them in a four-game series, that's downright scary. Or about a five-game playoff series — who are you going to beat three times out of that group?"

Jackson deal reportedly two years, \$16 million

LOS ANGELES — Coach Phil Jackson and the Los Angeles Lakers are expected to complete a two-year contract extension worth perhaps \$16 million, before bonuses, in the coming week, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Friday.

Jackson's initial five-year, \$30 million contract runs out after this season. Jackson, after resting for much of the summer at his home in Montana, returned to Los Angeles a week ago with the intention of lengthening his stay with the Lakers, according to the *Times*.

Asked about the likelihood of a new deal, Jackson's agent, Todd Musburger, said: "I think that would be the aim of all concerned. It obviously has been a very productive and meaningful association and something we believe both sides would benefit from if it is extended."

The agent said that no talks have been scheduled but that he will do so when something can be arranged.

"When we have information on Phil's contract status, we will discuss it at the appropriate time," Lakers spokesman John Black said.

Musburger did say that Jackson mentioned the possibility of extending his contract for two years when people asked him about it last season.

Florida State player was acquitted

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State President T.K. Wetherell said today the school did not interfere in a rape charge against a football player, a day after a jury found the player not guilty.

A Leon County prosecutor accused university officials yesterday of trying to broker a deal with the plaintiff to avoid embarrassing publicity for the school and two student-athletes involved in the case.

Junior noseguard Travis Johnson was acquitted yesterday by a jury of six women after less than 30 minutes' deliberation.

Wetherell said today in Orlando that the implication is that administrators called in the accuser and the accused.

He says they did come to see him, but that he met with them in response to the parents.

Wetherell said school officials spelled out all the rights for both students, including meeting with the state attorney.

Florida State's vice president for student affairs, Mary Coburn, also met with the woman who brought the charges. The plaintiff is also a Florida State scholarship athlete.

Assistant prosecutor Adam Ruiz calls it outrageous behavior. In his words: "It's bizarre at best."



Oak Hill has frustrated Tiger Woods so much that he has avoided talking to the press after both rounds.

Oak Hill too steep for field

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The PGA Championship dawned Friday with a two-shot penalty, and the East Course at Oak Hill Country Club never got any easier. By day's end, only three players had beaten par for 36 holes. This is major championship golf at its finest. This is major championship golf in 2003, a year when an unknown can hoist the Claret Jug at the British Open.

We should have known that Shaun Micheel (Muh-KEEL), or someone like him, would take a two-stroke lead with birdies at his final two holes Friday. America didn't know this, of course. In place of Thursday's blackout, on Friday TNT provided America with a Micheel blackout. The network signed off its coverage with Micheel at 1-under so that it could show a rerun of *Law & Order*.

Micheel's final two birdies gave him a second-round 68 and put him at 3-under 137, two strokes ahead of Masters champion Mike Weir and another unlikely contender, the veteran Billy Andrade, who began the week as the third alternate.

Andrade capitalized on his good fortune by being so happy to be here that he hasn't noticed Oak Hill busting his Titleists. The rest of the field, almost to a man, trudged off the course looking mentally and physically fried. Tim Herron, he of the pear shape and pelican gullet, held the lead for a short while before bogeying four of his final seven holes to fall into a group of seven at 1-over.

Solution from Friday's Combo Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

S	L	A	M		P	A	L	O		A	B	B	O	T
P	A	G	E		O	V	I	D		I	L	O	N	A
A	M	E	N		L	I	M	O		R	U	L	E	R
T	A	N	S	I	L	V	E	R		W	E	A	R	E
E	S	T	A	T	E			S	T	A	B			
					A	D	A	M		A	R	R	E	S
S	I	B	Y	L		B	E	R	G		O	R	E	O
H	O	O	E	Y		L	A	O		S	W	I	G	S
E	T	A	L		G	E	N	T		I	N	C	A	S
M	A	R	L	E	Y		T	H	O	R				
					O	N	M	E		B	E	A	G	L
S	L	A	W	S		G	R	E	E	N	G	R	A	Y
N	A	U	R	U		R	O	A	R		N	A	V	E
A	S	T	E	R		E	S	S	O		E	V	E	R
G	E	O	D	E		T	E	E	N		W	E	D	S



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 0630Z — Protestant worship
- 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- 0500Z — Catholic mass
- 0630Z — Protestant worship
- 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- 1400Z — Gospel service

Monday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass

Tuesday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- 0700Z — Catholic mass
- 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- 1515Z — Catholic mass

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- 0300Z- Liturgical Service
- 0400,0730,1130Z-General Protestant Service
- 0530Z-Roman Catholic Mass
- 1230Z-Latter Day Saints

Monday

- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Tuesday

- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Biblestudy

Wednesday

- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Midweek Praise Service

Thursday

- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

Friday

- 1400Z-Jewish Service
- 0230Z-Devotions and Prayer
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass
- 1400Z-Biblestudy

Saturday

- 0400Z-Jewish Service
- 1230Z-Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF
chapel
hours

Sunday
□ 1100Z — Christian service
□ 1430Z — U.S. Embassy service
□ 1900Z — Christian service
Wednesday
□ 1900Z — Bible study
2nd & 4th Thursdays
□ 1900Z — Roman Catholic mass



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Today



Hi — 95F
Lo — 64F



Hi — 106F
Lo — 70F



Hi — 95F
Lo — 64F



Hi — 104F
Lo — 66F

Sunday



Hi — 93F
Lo — 68F



Hi — 101F
Lo — 62F



Hi — 93F
Lo — 64F



Hi — 102F
Lo — 64F

Monday



Hi — 93F
Lo — 68F



Hi — 98F
Lo — 57F



Hi — 88F
Lo — 64F



Hi — 102F
Lo — 64F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- 0430Z — Protestant Service
- 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.